

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS TO ATHENS

REF: ATHENS 8881

1. THE PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS ARCPMISHOP MAKARIOS VISITED ATHENS AUGUST 22-24 ON HIS WAY BACK TO CYPRUS FROM THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. DURING HIS STAY HERE THE ARCHBISHOP HAD SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CONCERNING THEIR DISCUSSIONS SHORTLY BEFORE THE ARCHBISHOP'S DEPARTURE

2. IN HIS STATEMENT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS SAID:
"DURING MY BRIEF STAY IN ATHENS I HAVE HAD REPEATED MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER MR CARAMANLIS, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH WE HAVE DISCUSSED ALL FACETS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TURKISH PROVOCATIONS IN THE AEGEAN AND THE CRISIS THEY HAVE CREATED ALTHOUGH THESE TWO PROBLEMS ARE QUITE SEPARATE AND COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS KIND ENOUGH TO BRIEF ME ON THE VIEWS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THE POLICY HE IS PURSUING IN THIS MATTER. I WOULD LIKE TO

STRESS HERE THAT I FULLY AGREE WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT
POLICY ON THE AEGEAN ISSUE

"WITH REGARD TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, WE EXCHANGED VIEWS,
APPRAISED THE SITUATION, AND THE LINE TO BE FOLLOWED FROM
HERE ONWARD.

I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THERE WAS COMPLETE IDENTITY
OF VIEWS ON ALL MATTERS DISCUSSED." ASKED WHETHER THE ATHENS-
NICOSIA JOINT POLICY ON THE HANDLING OF THE CYPRIOT PROBLEM
WAS STILL THE SAME, PRESIDENT MAKARIOS CONFIRMED THAT FUNDAMENTALLY
THE LINE HAD REMAINED THE SAME, WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS
ARISING OUT OF DEVELOPMENTS

3. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS SAID THE FOLLOWING:

"IT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE WHETHER THE POLICY LINE REMAINS
THE SAME OR CHANGES. WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THIS POLICY
LINE IS HELD IN COMMON BY THE TWO COUNTRIES, SO THAT THE
SITUATION IS HANDLED IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT TO CREATE
DISAGREEMENTS, SINCE OUR CHIEF OBJECTIVE IS THE INTEREST OF
CYPRUS AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

"THE CONCLUSION DRAWN FROM THE TALKS I HAVE HAD WITH
PRESIDENT MAKARIOS IS THAT BOTH GREECE AND CYPRUS AND, I MIGHT SAY,
THE WHOLE OF HELLENISM IS AT THIS MOMENT FACED WITH MOST
DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. THESE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN CREATED BY TURKEY.
THEY ARE INDEED DIFFICULT, BUT NOT INSOLUBLE. TO MANAGE TO
SOLVE THEM WE SHALL NEED COOLNESS AND COURAGE, BECAUSE IF WE
DO NOT BOTH OF US USE THESE TWO QUALITIES JOINTLY, WE SHALL
END UP BY PLAYING TURKEY'S GAME. IF, HOWEVER, WE KNDLE THE
MATTER WITH CALM REALISM, OUR NATIONAL MATTERS WILL FINALLY
REACH A HAPPY SOLUTION. MORE PARTICULARLY ON THE SUBJECT OF
CYPRUS, I WANT TO TELL YOU, AS I TOLD PRESIDENT MAKARIOS,
THAT REGARDLESS OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE ARE FACING BECAUSE OF THE
AEGEAN MATTER, GREECE'S POLITICAL, MORAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT
WILL CONTINUE STRONGLY AND STEADILY."

4. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE UNITED STATES' ROLE IN THE CURRENT
GREEK-TURKISH CRISIS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: "THEY ARE
TRYING TO HELP THE GREEK SIDE, BUT THEY ARE NOT SUCCEEDING TO THE
EXTENT WE WOULD LIKE IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE."

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